

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
TOPIC	Military Information from Plauen		25X1
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT			25X1
DATE OBTAINED		4 February 1953	25X1
REFERENCES			
PAGES	3	(E)	
REMARKS			
This is UNEVALUATED Information			25X1

1. Prior to 11 January, the Hindenburg Kaserne in Plauen was occupied to capacity by an estimated 2,500 troops who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. Some of the soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. However, the latter were believed to belong to the Koenig Georg Kaserne, as both barracks installations have the same entrances and gates. The following groups of troops moved out of the installation on 29 December: 28 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, equipped with 1 heavy machine gun and 2 light machine guns; 18 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, equipped with rifles; 11 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, equipped with rifles; 9 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying 3 cable reels; 58 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, equipped with 2 heavy machine guns and three light machine guns; 11 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, equipped with cable reels and 3 field telephones; and 73 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, equipped with 2 heavy machine guns and 3 light machine guns.

2. [redacted] the following groups of soldiers moving out of the Hindenburg Kaserne on 8 January: 72 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, equipped with 3 light machine guns and 2 heavy machine guns; 72 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying entrenching tools; 24 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, equipped with rifles; 18 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, equipped with telephone and cable reels; and 36 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying entrenching tools. Trucks [redacted] each occupied by 20 soldiers and towing a 57-mm AT gun each entered the barracks installation. On 10 January, 176 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets and carrying 3 light machine guns, 2 heavy machine guns, rifles and field telephones, and 42 other soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying rifles and entrenching tools marched out of the billeting area. Trucks [redacted] each carrying 20 soldiers, entered the installation. They were followed by 3 SU-76 [redacted]

3. Prior to 11 January, the Koenig-Georg Kaserne was occupied to capacity by an estimated 1,500 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and motor transport insignia. On 29 December, about 60 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets engaged in march practice while

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other soldiers received instruction in the classroom. Three trucks, each towing a 57-mm AT gun, were in the barracks yard on 8 January. About 100 other soldiers were seen in the barracks yard. About 200 soldiers were at rifle drill in the barracks yard on 10 January. The dispensary which [redacted] quartered a small unit in addition to the patients, was located near the Koenig Georg Kaserne. Sentries wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. About 80 soldiers without weapons marched out of the installation on 29 December, while 60 soldiers without weapons entered the installation on 10 January.

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4. Prior to 11 January, the Kirchbach Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 200 to 300 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with signal insignia. On 29 December, 80 soldiers practiced in the barracks yard without weapons and 18 other soldiers practiced aiming with rifles. About 60 soldiers practiced rifle firing on 10 January.

5. Prior to 11 January, the Hindenburg Kaserne was occupied to capacity by about 700 troops who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. Groups of 50 to 60 recruits marched from the installation to the hospital almost daily. Training activity during the period of observation included close-order drill, individual and group training and rifle firing practice. Furthermore, groups of 5 to 6 soldiers each practiced aiming with 3 or 4 x 57-mm AT guns almost every other day. At about 9 a.m. on 10 January, groups of 5 soldiers each stood near 4 x 120-mm mortars.

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6. There was much activity in the hospital on Kasernen Strasse. Soldiers observed there wore black-bordered crimson epaulets and were believed to have come from the Hindenburg Kaserne. A telephone line connected the hospital with the Hindenburg Kaserne.

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7. Prior to 11 January, the Koenig Georg Kaserne was occupied by about 300 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia and, some, with signal and motor transport insignia. Troops practiced carbine firing with live ammunition and practiced with 4 or 7 x 76.2-mm field guns on 5 and 10 January. Each gun had a crew of 5 to 6 men.

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8. Prior to 11 January, the Kirchbach Kaserne quartered 200 to 250 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Officers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia were occasionally seen. About 25 officers were noticed in the installation. On 17 December, 8 x 76.2-mm field guns were seen in one of the garages. Two groups of 40 to 48 soldiers each wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery insignia, marched almost daily to the Koenig Georg Kaserne between 4 and 5 p.m. They returned between 8 and 10 p.m. The shouting of orders was heard from the gymnasium. No training activity was observed. Radio truck [redacted] was still seen at the installation. Sedan [redacted] stood near the entrance of the installation.

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Comment. Compared with previous information of early November 1952 the report indicates no changes in the occupation of the barracks installations in Flauen.

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112th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt, primarily those from the Hindenburg Kaserne, are alternately engaged in border guard missions, the strength estimates as stated [redacted] are believed too high [redacted]
[redacted]

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